

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR
OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF OHIO**



COLLEEN WILEY, COMMANDER
“Loyalty to Serving all Veterans”
2023-2024 OPERATING PLAN

DUANE SARMIENTO
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

“Meet the Challenge”

COMMANDERS GUIDENCE

Congratulations on being nominated and elected as Commanders. It is a great honor to lead this organization at all levels. Much of the success of your Post and District's will depend on you. Comrades will look to you for your guidance and leadership. You have accepted this position and must perform your duties to the best of your abilities. Learn and enforce the By-Laws and Ritual. If we all follow the By-Laws we will not only improve our organization but will have a successful year. Hard work, does work and let's have some fun along the way. Use the chain of command. We must do our best to fix problems at the lowest level. Do not be afraid to ask for help. Set goals for yourself and do your best to complete them your year as Commander. Meetings must be productive, meaningful and conduct training as needed at all levels. Get your team of Officers and Chairman involved to do the work of our order. Without communication and teamwork success will be highly unlikely. Get out in your communities working activities and our programs. Again, you must work as a team. Plan ahead for the future and strive to leave your Post and District in better shape than it was when you became Commander.

MISSION

The Mission of the VFW is foster camaraderie among United States Veterans of Overseas Conflicts. To serve our Veteran's and Families, the Military and our Communities. To advocate on behalf of all Veterans and to foster true Patriotism.

MEMBERSHIP

We cannot perform our mission without members. We lose members three ways: 1. Attrition, 2. Removal and 3. Lack of Retention. Retention is our Biggest Looser. The 3 R's in membership is **RECRUIT** new members, **RETAIN** the members we have and **REINSTATE/RECOVER** the ones you have lost. Call them and find out why and fix the problem.

Membership effects the Department, District and Post financially and by delegate strength during voting at Conventions. Each Post has to ensure eligibility of each member and be voted in at Post meetings. Again, follow the By-Law, Membership and Communication is the Key to our success.

It is very rewarding this year to see the younger Veteran's in many Leadership positions throughout our State. Hopefully this will encourage the younger ones out there to join. This is why we need to be seen doing our work in our communities and letting the public know what we do.

The term of "Buying Membership" has been around since I became a member. There are reasons why you can use the Post Relief Fund or Posts with Charities to pay for membership. This **MUST** be voted on and approved at a Post Meeting. Examples of which some post pay for membership dues are for those still serving our country, 1st year member, after they reach a certain age, in a rest home, been laid off from work, family in distress etc. Again, only the Post has the right to vote on and approve for these type members.

At no time will the Department be involved in paying for membership this year just to run up the numbers. Paying for members just to get an award is wrong and effects Commanders at all levels following in our footsteps. Let's work hard to reach 100% in membership and be proud of how we accomplish that goal.

V.F.W. Department Officers



COLLEEN WILEY
Commander



KARI PFEIFER
Sr. Vice Commander



MIKE MILAM
Jr. Vice Commander



RICHARD CURRY
Quartermaster



RAY SCHAFER
Judge Advocate



JOSE TORRES
Surgeon



JOHN FRUEH
Chief Of Staff



JOHN WILEY
Inspector

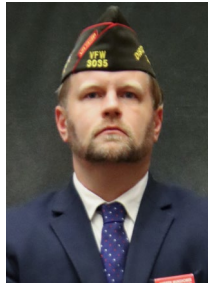


TERRY FRASHER
Chaplain

DISTRICT COMMANDERS



DAVID ORVACEZ
District 1



ANDREW MUNSHOWER
District 2



STEVEN DUNCAN
District 3



MICHAEL RILEY
District 4



ROY CAMPBELL
District 5



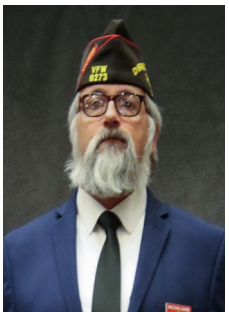
STEPHEN RUSSELL
District 6



LUTHER SAWICKI
District 7



PATRICK WITT
District 8



MICHAEL BAIRD
District 9



RODGER BRODMAN
District 10



ERNEST MASSIE
District 11



NICHOLETTE BOLTE
District 12



JAZZ WILEY-STATE SERVICE DOG

PLANNING SCHEDULES 2023-2024

SCHEDULE YOUR POST AND DISTRICT FUNCTIONS AROUND THESE DATES.

July 14-16, 2023	Department C of A (Dublin)
July 22-27-, 2023	National Convention Phoenix, AZ
August 4-5, 2023	VFW National Home Visit (Eaton Rapids, MI)
August 26-27, 2023	Department Golf Outing (Clyde)
September 9, 2023	Department Training VFW Post 4738 Stow
September 23, 2023	Founder's Day (Columbus)
October 7, 2023	Department Training VFW Post 1380 Lancaster
October 14, 2023	Department Training VFW Post 8218 Napoleon
October 20-22, 2023	Big Ten Conference (Chicago, IL)
November 4, 2023	Department Training VFW Post 3288 Brookville
December 2, 2023	Ohio Veterans Home Christmas (Sandusky)
December 9, 2023	Ohio Veterans Home Christmas (Georgetown)
January 10-14, 2024	Mid-Winter Conference (Columbus)
Mar 2-6, 2024	Voice of Democracy- Washington, DC
Mar 3-7, 2024	Legislative Conference- Washington, DC
April 30, 2024	All State Deadline
June 5-9, 2024	State Convention (Sandusky)
July 27-Aug 1, 2024	National Convention (Louisville, KY)

- PER DEPARTMENT POLICY, DISTRICTS/POSTS CANNOT SCHEDULE EVENTS ON SAME DAY AS DEPARTMENT SCHEDULED EVENTS!

- DATES WILL BE UPDATED ON THE VFW, DEPARTMENT OF OHIO WEBSITE: www.vfwoh.org

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN FOR THE 2023-2024 PROGRAM YEAR

State Commander	Colleen Wiley.....419-203-9351 408 S. Market, Van Wert, OH 45891 Email: wileyvanwert@roadrunner.com
Membership Director	Larry Lonca.....740-404-9196
Membership Co-Chairmen	1 Ernest Massie 2 Patrick Witt 3 Steven Richards 4 Bill Marsh 5 Roy Campbell
Program Director/ Buddy Poppy Chairman	Roy Tenhundfeld.....513-471-4220 4003 Andrews Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45205 Email: rtenhundfeld@zoomtown.com
Community Service (Teacher of the Year and VFW Employer of the Year)	Timothy Zvoncheck.....440-667-6154 12440 Steeplechase Lane, Strongsville, OH 44149 Email: cdr@vfw3345.com
Founder's Day Chairman (James Romanis/ VFW Member of the Year)	Iris Foster-De Nieuwe.....773-919-4747 3959 Summerstone Dr., Columbus, OH 43230 Email: ifoster@vfwoc.org
Founder's Day Co Chairman	Gretchen Klingler.....337-718-3097 526 S. Maple St., Marysville, OH 43040 Email: gretchenk519@gmail.com
Safety—(Firefighter, EMT Law Enforcement,Dispatcher)	Jim Riley.....216-544-1757 15801 Edgecliff Ave., Cleveland, OH 44111 Email: jimrileyvfw@gmail.com
Legislative	Larry Moore.....567-303-7262 PO Box 5124, Mansfield, OH 44901 Email: ohvfwleg@aol.com

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN FOR THE 2023-2024 PROGRAM YEAR

Legislative Co-Chair	David Root.....440-366-0271 426 ½ Cleveland St., Elyria, OH 44035 Email: rootohiofw@gmail.com
National Home	Mike Milam.....513-479-5146 208 Norman Lane, Lebanon, OH 45036 Email: fxemike@gmail.com
Ohio Veterans & Military Support	Gretchen Klingler.....337-718-3097 526 S. Maple St., Marysville, OH 43040 Email: gretchenk519@gmail.com
Ohio Veterans & Military Support Co-Chairman	Christopher Loman.....440-219-9560 4617 Palm Ave., Lorain, OH 44055 Email: chris.loman87@gmail.com
POW/MIA	Ralph Reynolds.....419-230-1517 501 S. Rauthland Ave, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 Email: Rreynolds6@bright.net
Veterans Health & Welfare	Ben Morris.....740-341-1704 3234 Harding Hwy, W. Marion OH 43302 E-mail: benthere49@yahoo.com
Veterans Pins Chairman	Michael Curtis.....330-755-0299 357 Woodbine Ave, Struthers, OH 44471
Voice of Democracy	Gerald Constable.....443-883-6773 6907 Pegram Way, Dayton, OH 45424 Email: Itfuzz@lotcs.org
VFW Rider President	Michael Riley.....614-398-8762 3188 Drew Ave., Fairfield Twp., OH 45011 Email: mriley0111@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN FOR THE 2023-2024 PROGRAM YEAR

Youth Activities
(Patriot Pen,
Scouting, JROTC)

Andrew Leidigh.....419-606-1764
6115 Cinnamon Dr., E, West Salem, OH 44287
Email: ableidigh@yahoo.com

Dept. Inspector

John Wiley.....419-605-6519
408 S. Market St, Van Wert, OH 45891
Email: Johnd1972.jw@gmail.com



ALL-STATE PROGRAM “POST”

State Commander, Colleen Wiley, along with her leadership team worked together to develop and implement a balanced All-State Program that supports the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and facilitates **on-line** reporting via the Department of Ohio web-page (www.vfwoh.org). The ALL-STATE program will consist of three main categories: **GOOD STANDING, MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAMS.**

- **Post must be in good standing to receive All State status.**

GOOD STANDING

1. **Dates tracked by: Post Mark Date, E-mail transmit date, or fax transmit date. Unless otherwise stated by a specific Activity date, all below Activities must be accomplished No-Later-Than 30 April 2024.**
 - a. **AUDITS:** Quarterly audits submitted to Department, no later than the end of the month following the last day of each quarterly period. Receipt cutoff dates: **31 Jul 2023, 31 Oct. 2023, 31 Jan. 2024, and 30 April 2024.**
 - b. **INSURANCE:** Proper documentation (**CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY naming the VFW National, and the Department of Ohio as additional insured**) submitted to Department to ensure policies are up to date, to include Liquor Liability insurance if applicable. Required yearly on file in the department office.
 - c. **DISTRICT MEETINGS:** Attend District **Council of Administration** and **all regular** District meetings, minimum of **Post Commander or his/her Representative**, (delegate) must attend. Post Officers are encouraged to attend!
 - d. **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION:** Proper documentation submitted to department to ensure current incorporation in the State of Ohio.
 - e. **BONDED:** Appropriated Post officers/members bonded for the proper amount and copy sent to headquarters yearly.
 - f. **Elections Reports** must be into Department and National by June 1st.

MEMBERSHIP

1. Department Office of Primary Responsibility is the **Dept. Membership Director**: Final data will be taken from National VFW MEMSTATS at the close of the day **Sunday, April 30, 2024**.
NOTE: **All-American** Post Membership cutoff is **June 30, 2024**.

100% Membership on April 30, 2024, or June 30, 2024

Commanders meeting all programs, memberships and Good Standing requirements on April 30, 2024 will receive All State recognition at the **State Convention**.

Commanders meeting all program, membership and Good Standing requirements on April 30, 2024, and membership requirements on June 30, 2023 (also membership cutoff date for All American) will receive All State recognition at their **next scheduled District Meeting**.

PROGRAMS GENERAL

1. Department Office of Primary Responsibility for working with the District Program Coordinator (assists Posts with submitting reports on-line) and Department Program Chairmen is the **Dept. Program Director**. The Director is responsible for monitoring Program reporting status and resolving any on-line reporting issues. All Core and Secondary Program activities must be accomplished No-Later-Than **30 April 2024**.
2. On-line reporting via the Department web-page, **www.vfwoh.org**, will consist of one main template with options for Program selection, major reporting activity per program, examples of other activities per program, and accounting fields for number of people attending, hours, travel, activity description, etc. Once a number is entered the Program reporting tool will “do the math!” Calculation factors for 2023-2024 are: Attendee Hourly rate is \$24.69, Mileage rate is \$0.14 per mile, Pint of blood is \$130, Wheel Chair daily loan rate is .50, Walker daily loan rate is \$.25. NOTE: These calculation factors were coordinate with VFW National HQ.
3. The **“Activity”** is **“the unit of measure”** for All-State requirements (**1 Activity = 1 Report**). Reports will be credited **No-Later-Than** the **last day** of the reporting period. Reporting Periods are:

Period #1: NOTE: This period covers transition to include online reporting, Department leadership, Program Chairmen, and allows time for Districts to hold their C of A to brief new Program Requirements! Commanders at all levels should use this time wisely!

Note: Report your May Activities in June to August reporting period

Period #1 1 June to 31 Aug. On-line reporting only!

Period #2: 1 Sept to 31 Dec. On-line reporting only!

Period #3: 1 Jan to 30 April On-line reporting only!

CORE PROGRAMS

-THREE (3) CORE PROGRAMS

- FOUR (4) ACTIVITIES EACH PROGRAM PER REPORTING PERIOD

- THREE (3) REPORTING PERIODS

(12 Reports Total each X 3 Periods = 36 TOTAL REPORTS)

EACH CORE PROGRAM BELOW HAS LISTED “RECOMMENDED ACTIVITY OPTIONS!” THESE OPTIONS ARE “NOT” ALL INCLUSIVE AND ARE “NOT” ALL REQUIRED! THEY ARE ACTIVITIES THE DEPARTMENT WANTS TO EMPHASIZE AND ARE PRE-LOADED ON THE DEPARTMENT ON-LINE REPORTING TOOL.

- 1. Community Service/Americanism (Activity or Donation). Major reporting activities:**
 - a. Teacher of the Year: Participate in the Program and advance at least one entry to the District. Post Entries are due to the VFW Post/Auxiliary by October 31st, 2023. Completion of the Post/ Auxiliary judging by November 22, 2023. Completion of District Judging by December 9th, 2023. District winning entry to the Department Chairman, Comrade Tim Zvoncheck, 12440 Steeplechase Ln, Strongsville, OH 44149. Requirement for All State Program**
 - b. Ohio Founder’s Day Program: Attend event in Columbus at the Green Lawn Cemetery, and/or the Luncheon. Requirement All State.**
 - c. Submit an entry for the VFW Member of the Year “The James Romanis Award” by September 1st 2023 to Chairman, Comrade Iris Foster-DeNieuwe 35 E. Chestnut St., Suite 506, Columbus, OH 43215. This is for Posts and Districts levels. Requirement for All State.**
 - d. VFW Employer of the Year. Submit an entry to the Department Chairman, Comrade Tim Zvoncheck, 12440 Steeplechase Ln, Strongsville, OH 44149 by April 1st, 2024.**

Participate in The First Responders of the Year Program and advance winning entry to District (Individual or Group/Team)

- e. Participate in LE/Firefighter/EMT/Dispatcher of the Year Program and advance winning entry to District (Individual or Group/Team) Post Entries are due to the VFW Post/Auxiliary by October 31st, 2023. Completion of the Post/ Auxiliary judging by November 22, 2023. Completion of District Judging by December 9th, 2023. District winning entry to the Department Chairman, Comrade Jim Riley, 15801 Edgcliff Ave. Cleveland, OH 44111. Requirement for All State.**
- f. Support community patriotic event/forum, or Purchase Poppies, min. 500 or donate to Department Poppy Van. Requirement for All State.**

2. **Ohio Veterans and Military Service** (Activity or Donation). Major reporting activities:
 - a. Donation to Ohio Military Assistance (Ohio MAP)
 - b. Donation to National Unmet Needs, minimum of \$100. [Send check to National VFW.](#)
 - c. Donation to Ohio Veterans Service Officers Fund
 - d. Attend Ohio Day at the VFW National Home, or donate
 - e. Purchase one (1) bag of Veterans Pins. This is Commander's Wiley's Special Project "Military Sexual Trauma" through S.A.W.
 - f. Adopt A Unit
 - g. Support Family Readiness Group
3. **Veterans Health and Welfare** (Activity or Donation). Recommended options:
 - a. Hospital (includes loan of a Wheel Chair or a Walker)
 - b. Support a VA Medical Center
 - c. Donation to a Homeless Cause
 - d. Donation to the Combs, Comedy, Bentfeld Hospice/Cancer Fund
 - e. Donation to the Dept. of Ohio VA Voluntary Services Fund
 - f. Drug, Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, and Suicide Prevention
 - g. Grave side and funeral home services
 - h. Hospital visits
 - i. Donation to veterans and groups
 - j. Color Guard

SECONDARY PROGRAMS

SECONDARY PROGRAMS ARE INDENTICAL TO "CORE PROGRAMS, "EXCEPT THEY ONLY REQUIRE TWO (2) REPORTS PER PROGRAM FOR REPORTING PERIOD.

(6 Reports each period X 3 Periods= 18 TOTAL REPORTS)

1. **Legislative** (Activity): Recommended options:
 - a. Respond to VFW Action Corps Alert
 - b. Direct Communication with Local, National, or State Legislator(s)/staff
 - c. Participate in a Local, State, or National Forum on Veteran Issues
 - d. Conduct a get out the vote campaign
2. **Youth activities** (Activity or Donation): Recommended options:
 - e. Voice of Democracy: Participate in the Program and advance at least one entry to District 2023-2024 Theme: "What are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?". Post Entries are due to the VFW Post/Auxiliary by October 31st, 2023. Completion of the Post/ Auxiliary judging by November 22, 2023. Completion of District Judging by December 9th, 2023. District winning entry

to the Department Chairman, Comrade Gerald Constable, 6907 Pegram Way, Dayton, OH 45424. Requirement for All State.

- f. **Patriot Pen:** Participate in the Program and advance at least one entry to District 2023-2024 Theme: "How are you inspired by America? " Post Entries are due to the VFW Post/Auxiliary by October 31st, 2023. Completion of the Post/ Auxiliary judging by November 22, 2023. Completion of District Judging by December 9th, 2023. District winning entry to the Department Chairman, Comrade Andrew Leidigh 6115 Cinnamon Dr. E. West Salem, OH 44287. Requirement for All State.
 - g. **Scout of the year:** Participate in the Program and advance all eligible entries to Youth Activities Chairman Post Deadline is March 1st, 2024. District deadline the Districts is April 1st, 2024. Deadline to the Department April 12th, 2024. Department Entries need to be submitted to Department Chairman, Comrade Andrew Leidigh 6115 Cinnamon Dr. E. West Salem, OH 44287.
 - h. **VFW JROTC Cadet of the Year:** Forward an Entry to the Department Chairman, Comrade Andrew Leidigh 6115 Cinnamon Dr. E. West Salem, OH 44287 by April 1st, 2024. This is for both Posts and Districts.
 - i. **Donation to the Schell/Fruttoso Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen Youth Essay Scholarship Fund.** Send the Donation to Department of OH and fill out the memo line with the appropriate program name.
3. **Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (Activity or Donation):** Recommended options:
- a. Attend POW/MIA Vigil/Memorial Service
 - b. Sponsor POW/MIA Vigil/Memorial Service
 - c. Donate a POW/MIA Flag
 - d. Display a POW/MIA Flag (at Post, Parade, etc.)
 - e. Monetary Donation/Flag to a POW/MIA support organization, e.g., Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Make checks payable to: Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting, Agency 2300 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C., 20301-2300.
 - f. **Attend a funeral for a Missing in action/POW Comrade.**

DONATIONS AND REPORTS

Donations to **National** Programs MUST be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters.

- VFW, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

Donations for **Department "All State"** Programs should be mailed to the VFW Dept. of Ohio in Columbus. **Along with the Donation enter a report on the Department's On-Line Reporting Tool!**

- **VFW Department of Ohio, 35 E. Chestnut St., Suite 506, Columbus, OH 43215**
- **NO POST BOX**

Be sure to write the program name on the memo line of the check(s)

All donations listed above may be made from either the Post Relief Fund or the Post VFW of Ohio Charities account.

If at any time during the year you have questions or concerns about requirements or reports, contact the District Chairman before contacting any officer or chairman of the Department.

OHIO'S TEAM OF ALL-STATE POST COMMANDER RECOGNITION

The commander of a Post that meets all requirements for All-State on or before April 30, 2024, or June 30, 2024 will have earned the title of **"All-State Post Commander"** and will be a member of the 2023-2024 Ohio All-State Post Commanders Team

Commanders meeting all requirements for membership and programs on April 30, 2024 will receive the All-State rewards at the Department Convention in June.

Commanders meeting all program requirements on April 30, 2023 and meeting all membership requirements on June 30, 2024 also membership cutoff date for All American) will receive the All-State rewards at their next scheduled District meeting.

Each All-State Post Commander will receive the following:

1. For first time Ohio All-State Post Commanders an official All-State Post Commander cap.
For second (or more) time Ohio All-State Post Commanders fifty dollar (\$50) gift card.
2. An All-State Commander lapel pin.
3. Fifty dollars (\$50) gift cards to help defray the expense of attending the Department Convention. **Post Commander must be present at the convention to receive this award.**
4. A Department of Ohio Citation in recognition of being a member of the All-State Team.
The Post Commander with the most outstanding record will be selected as the Captain of the 2023-2024 Ohio All-State Post Commanders Team. The Captain of the All-State Team will receive a plaque from the Department of Ohio in recognition for being selected as Captain of the Team and in addition, will receive a one hundred dollar (\$100) gift card.

OHIO'S TEAM OF ALL-STATE POST MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN RECOGNITION

Each All-State Post Membership Chairman will receive:

1. For first time Ohio All-State Membership will receive an official All-State Post Membership Chairman cap.
For second (or more) time Ohio All-State Membership Chairman fifty dollar (\$50) gift card.
2. Fifty dollar (\$50) gift card to help defray the expenses of attending the Department Convention. **Post Membership Chairman must be present at the convention to receive this award.**

POST COMMANDER AND DISTRICT COMMANDER INCENTIVE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

1. A \$250.00 gift card will be awarded to the **Post Commander and District Commander** having the **greatest total of new members** by **May 1, 2024**.
2. A \$ 250.00 gift card will be awarded to the **Post Commander and District Commander** having the **greatest percentage of reinstated members** by **May 1, 2024**.
3. A \$250.00 gift card will be awarded to the **Post Commander and District Commander** having the **greatest numerical gain in life and reinstated members** by **May 1, 2024**.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS' AWARDS

1. A plaque, which will be retained by the post permanently, will be awarded to the post having the **greatest total of new members** by **May 1, 2024**.
2. A plaque, which will be retained by the post permanently, will be awarded to the post having the **greatest percentage of new members** by **May 1, 2024**.
3. A plaque, which will be retained by the post permanently, will be awarded to the post having the **greatest numerical gain in life members** by **May 1, 2024**.

ALL-STATE PROGRAM "DISTRICT"

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Final data will be taken from National VFW web site (MEMSTATS)

At the close of the day **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**

District must have 100% membership

Commanders meeting all programs and membership requirements on April 30, 2024 will receive All-State recognition at the **State Convention**.

Commanders meeting all program requirements on April 30, 2024, and membership requirements on June 30, 2024 (also membership cutoff date for All-American) will receive All-State recognition at their **next scheduled District Meeting**.

DISTRICT DUTIES

- 1) The District must have all quarterly audits sent to Department Office within end of month following the district meeting:
- 2) The District must have all monies owed to the Department paid in full.
- 3) The District must have all officers accountable for District funds bonded for the proper amount.
- 4) The District must be incorporated.
- 5) The Commander (or Sr. Vice or Jr. Vice in his absence) **must** attend Department Convention, Council of Administration Meeting, Midwinter Conference, Founder's Day, and Ohio Day at National Home.
- 6) The District must have all inspections (Posts and own District) accomplished **No-Later-Then 7 Jan 2024.**

PROGRAMS

Requirements listed in all five (5) to be accomplished at any time between June 1, 2023 and April 30, 2024. NOTE: Activities directly supporting All American criteria are marked with

- 1) The District **must** advance one (1) Voice of Democracy entry from District to Department.
- 2) The District **must** advance one (1) Patriot's Pen entry from District to Department.
- 3) The District **must** advance one (1) entry from at least one (1) of the following From District to Department.
 - a) Teacher of the Year
 - b) Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (Individual or Group/Team)
 - c) Firefighter of the Year (Individual or Group/Team)
 - d) Ray Romians/ VFW Member of the year. (National)**
- 4) The District **must** report at least one activity related to **"Veterans Health and Welfare Program"**.
- 5) The District **must** make a donation to National Veterans and Military Support, or National Unmet Needs, greater than \$100
- 6) The District **must** make a donation to at least two of the following Department Program Funds
 - a. Ohio Military Assistance Fund
 - b. Ohio VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) Fund
 - c. Ohio Veterans Service Officer's Fund

OHIO'S TEAM OF ALL-STATE DISTRICT COMMANDER RECOGNITION

The commander of a District that meets all requirements for All-State on or before April 30, 2024 will have earned the title of All-State District Commander and will be a member of the 2023-2024 Ohio All-State District Commanders Team

Commanders meeting all requirements for membership and programs on or before April 30, 2023 will receive the All-State rewards at the Department Convention in June.

Commanders meeting all program requirements on or before April 30, 2024 and meeting all membership requirements on or before June 30, 2024 will receive the All-State rewards at their next scheduled District meeting.

Each All-State District Commander will receive the following:

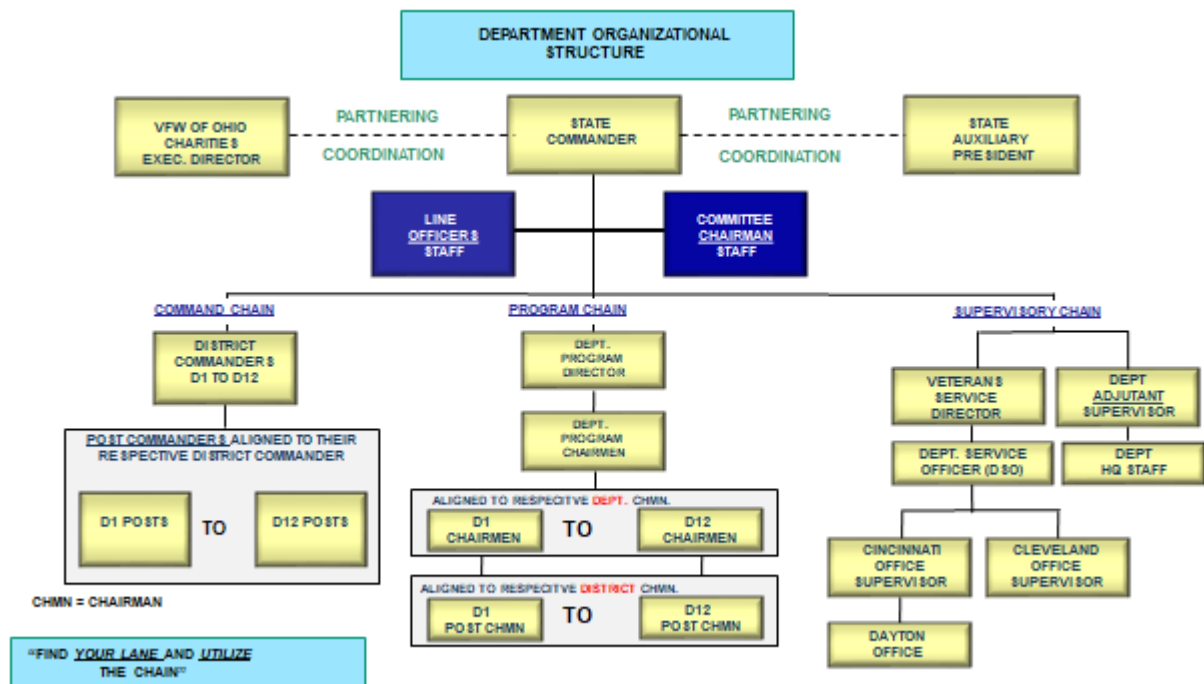
1. For first-time Ohio All-State District Commanders will receive an All-State District Commanders cap.
For second (or more) time Ohio All-State District Commanders fifty dollar (\$50) gift card.
2. A Department of Ohio citation in recognition of being a member of the All-State Team.
3. Fifty dollar (\$50) gift card to help defray the expense of attending the Department Convention. District Commander must be present at the convention to receive this award.

The District Commander with the most outstanding record will be selected as the Captain of the 2023-2024 Ohio All-State District Commanders Team. The Captain of the All-State Team will receive a plaque from the Department of Ohio in recognition for being selected as Captain of the Team and in addition, will receive a one hundred dollar (\$100) gift card.

OHIO'S TEAM OF ALL-STATE DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN RECOGNITION

Each All-State District Membership Chairman will receive:

1. For first time Ohio All-State Membership Chairman will receive an official All-State District Membership Chairman cap.
For second (or more) time Ohio All-State Membership Chairman fifty dollar (\$50) gift card.
2. Fifty dollar (\$50) gift card to help defray the expenses of attending the Department Convention. District Membership Chairman must be present at the convention to receive this award.



A. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH DEPARTMENT HQ

- Mail: 35 E. Chestnut St., Ste. 506, Columbus, OH 43215
- E-mail: qm@vfwoh.org (note: email has changed)
- Phone: (614) 224-1838
- Fax: (614) 224-3861
- Webpage: [HTTP://WWW.VFWOH.ORG](http://www.vfwoh.org)
- Members Only Log-in: Your VFW membership card number and last name
(NOT case sensitive)
- Zoom Meetings: The State Commander will hold Zoom Meetings with Line Officers monthly, and Line Officers and District Commanders every other month, or as required. Thirty (30) days before a major Department event the appropriated chairman will provide a “Briefing Plan” to appropriate Department (VFW and Auxiliary) leadership/staff. Other focused Zoom Meetings will occur as required.
- NOTE: Contact VFW OF OHIO CHARITIES (VFWOC) for ONLY charity related business/issues.

ALL-STATE CAP ORDER FORM

First time Post and District Commanders will be given a cap as an All-State Commander.

First time Post and District Membership Chairman will be given a cap as an All-State Membership Chairman.

Commander _____ Post # _____

Phone Number _____ (must have phone #)

First Time Commander _____

Cap Size _____ Life Member Yes or No (circle one)

Attending Convention? Yes or No

Membership Chairman _____ Post # _____

Phone Number _____ (must have phone #)

First Time Membership Chairman _____

Cap Size _____ Life Member Yes or No (circle one)

Attending Convention? Yes or No

**PLEASE FILL OUT THIS INFORMATION AND SEND TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT ON FILE FOR ALL-STATE PURPOSES ONLY.**

Signature _____

Date _____

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DEPARTMENT OF OHIO
JAMES ROMANIS AWARDS
NOMINATION FORM

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

1. Nominee must be an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and be of good moral character.
2. Inductees will be recognized for significant contributions to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and their committees, through their actions above and beyond the call of duty as a member of this organization.
3. Nominees will be evaluated on the scope and the impact of the nominee's achievements and contributions to which their efforts benefit and provide inspiration to other members.
4. Letters simply recommending induction of a particular nominee will not be considered.
5. PACKETS FOR NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE JAMES ROMANIS AWARD COMMITTEE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1ST OF THE CURRENT YEAR.

NOMINATION FORM

FULL NAME OR NOMINEE _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Post# _____ Post Address _____ District _____

NAME OF NOMINATOR _____

PHONE _____ ADDRESS _____

Mail to: VFW Dept. of Ohio
35 E. Chestnut St., Suite 506
Columbus, OH 43215

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



**DEPARTMENT OF OHIO
2023-2024
VETERANS PINS**



All profits from the sales of Veterans Pins will go into the Save A Warrior Fund

Small Bag: (25 Pins)	\$ 50.00
Medium Bag (50 Pins)	\$ 75.00
Large Bag: (100 Pins)	\$ 150.00
Jumbo Bag: (200 Pins)	\$ 300.00

Veterans Pin Chairman
Michael Curtis
Curtisville21@yahoo.com

Post/Auxiliary Number: _____ District: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Bag Size: _____ Price of Bag: _____

Name as it Appears on Credit Card: _____

Type of CC: _____ Card Number: _____

CVV #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Return this form with full payment to:

VFW Dept. of Ohio
35 E. Chestnut St., Suite 506, Columbus, OH 43215

Thank you for your order-Mike

DEPARTMENT of OHIO DISTRICTS MAP



VFW National Membership Program

MEET THE CHALLENGE



2023-2024

Duane T. Sarmiento
Commander-in-Chief

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Membership Mission

To recruit, retain and mentor a stable membership base including all generations of veterans. To cultivate a membership that is well versed in institutional knowledge and actively involved at all levels of the organization and in the local community. To establish Posts with an established vision of service, leadership, and community outreach.

Introduction

Today, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is 124 years old. During those years, we have had WWI, WWII, Korean, Vietnam, and other veterans joining en masse. Today, however, we have lost many of these honorable men and women. As history has proven, the Post-9/11 veterans will join our organization like others have when they are ready, however usually not until their kids grow or their retirements are in place.

We must not stereotype any of our future members regardless of sex, color, or personal beliefs. If a member qualifies, bring them in. The only way to make this success permanent is to retain those members, recover past members, and continue to recruit new veterans into our ranks. There are still many veterans eligible to join and at all ages. However, our focus needs to be on our Post-9/11 veterans, for they will be our future.

You might ask, how do we build our organization? It's simple, leadership by example. If you are a Commander of a Post, District, Department, or the National Commander, then get out there and recruit members yourself and show your team that if you can do it, so can they. A good way to do this is to improve the way we communicate with our members at all levels of the organization. Posts, Districts, Departments, and our National Officers need to use all methods available to convey information for news and training to our membership through newsletters, emails, social media, recruiting booths and outreach teams.

We need to know who our members are and how we can address their needs and concerns. It's time to step it up and recruit Post-9/11 veterans. Each of us needs to do our part and recruit at least one new member. Think about it. If we all recruit one each, we would show substantial growth in membership in just one year.

Membership Goals

1. Build a strong organization through recruiting new members while retaining our current membership, creating a solid baseline for the future.
2. Work together to achieve VFW's goals. The VFW National Headquarters staff is available to assist in coordinating programs, developing membership initiatives, and building awareness among our membership and the entire veteran community.

Membership Objectives

- Achieve 102% in Membership
- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member.
- Increase membership drives and/or events.
- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts.
- Increase Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership

Membership Resources

In order to assist our Posts, Districts, and Departments in meeting the goals set out by the Commander-in-Chief in this membership program, the National Headquarters has a wealth of resources at your disposal. Many of those are available free of charge to our members.

- Membership materials ranging from applications, recruiting brochures, posters, and benefits brochures can be ordered directly from the Membership Department using the Membership Order Form (located under Membership Quick Links once you log into vfw.org)

- Resources for Post Development, Membership Campaigns, and Mentorship such as training guides, videos, and webinars are available in the Training & Support section on vfw.org
 - Promotional tools such as radio spots, sample advertisements, public service announcements, and media kits are all available through the Media Room on vfw.org
- See the trend? Just about anything you will need is at vfw.org, check it out.

The VFW National Headquarters staff is ready and trained to answer any questions you may have concerning membership, VFW programs, or other issues. You can contact our **Member Service Center directly at 1.833.VFW.VETS**, or the **Membership Department at 1.888.JOIN.VFW**.

Triple Crown Award

Any commander who achieves All-American at the Post, District and Department level will receive a Triple Crown pin and recognition at the National Convention.

Recruiting Awards

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| • 1,5, 10, 15 | Corresponding numbered member pin |
| • 25 | CIC coin and Citation |
| • 50 | National Aide-De-Camp cap and Citation |
| • 75 | CIC Medallion Set |
| • 100 | Century cap <u>or</u> \$50 VFW Store credit & Citation |
| • 150 | CIC Custom Desk Name Plate |

Department “102 Percent” Incentive

Any Department that attains 102% in membership by close of business on June 30th, 2024, will be entered into a random drawing. The commander and quartermaster that is selected will each receive:

- **\$2500 voucher through Veterans Travel Services (VTS) applied towards airfare, accommodations, and transportation for a trip of their choice.**

Early Bird Award—VFW Legislative Conference

The top three Post commanders and quartermasters in each division on Jan. 1, 2024, will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW Legislative Conference, Washington D.C.**

Post Commander and Quartermaster – New & Reinstated Member Award

The top 10 Post commanders and quartermasters in each division who report more than 50 new and/or reinstated members by Jan. 1, 2024, will each be awarded:

- **A travel charger with the official VFW Commander-in-Chief logo.**

Meeting the Challenge Award

The top two Post commanders and the top two District commanders in each division who achieve 102% membership by April 1, 2024, will each be awarded:

- **Five-night hotel accommodation at the National Convention.**

102% Post, District & Department

A distinctive streamer will be awarded to every Post, District and State/Department that achieves 102% or greater in membership before July 1, 2024.

102% Commander Drawing

Each Post and District commander that exceeds 102% in membership by June 1, 2024, will receive an entry in this drawing. Twenty Post commanders and Twelve District commanders will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**

Post Commander and Quartermaster Division Challenge

For every 10 new/reinstated members recruited between July 1, 2023, and April 1, 2024, Posts will earn one entry for both Post commander and quartermaster entered into a drawing. One Post per division will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend each for commander and quartermaster to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**

Legacy Life Membership Acquisition

Each Post that achieves the designated benchmarks of 25, 50 and 75 Legacy Life Members will be awarded:

- **A Legacy Society Post Proclamation.**

Each Post that achieves the distinctive benchmark of 100 Legacy Life members by July 1, 2024, commander or Post representative will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**
- **Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.**
- **Legacy Society Post Proclamation.**

Top Department Recruiter

The top Recruiter in every Department on July 1, 2024, will receive:

- **Engraved Navy Cutlass**

Note: Minimum of 25 new/reinstated members required to win this award.

Elite Recruiter

Any VFW member who signs up 250 or more new and/or reinstated members by July 1, 2024, will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**
- **Distinctive cap, citation, and name badge.**

Recruiter of the Year

The VFW member who signs up the greatest number of new and/or reinstated members greater than 250 by July 1, 2024, will receive:

- **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**
- **Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.**
- **Distinctive cap, citation, and name badge.**
- **Commander-in-Chief's Crystal Eagle.**

New Post Development and Post Revitalization Department Award

- For each new Post chartered, and/or revitalized, the Department Quartermaster will receive:
- **A \$250 credit from the VFW Store to be used towards necessary materials for the new Post.**

All-American Criteria

The All-American program exists to recognize exceptional leadership and teamwork, authentic accomplishment in membership growth and VFW core programs.

All-American Post Criteria

- Membership must be at least 102%
- Must conduct two Membership recruiting events, submit reports through AllAmerican Dashboard
- Post-Election Report must be submitted to National Headquarters
- Meet all the following Program Participation Criteria:
 - Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Post can donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)
 - Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging
(Overseas Post can donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)
 - Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to Veterans & Military Support Programs Services, minimum of \$100.

- National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas Post donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)
- A Post must submit a community service report quarterly to their department for submission to the All-American Dashboard. The quarters are July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Jan-March, and April-June.
- Buddy Poppy- Purchase Three per member in the Post

All-American Post Award

- All Posts that meet the Qualifying Percentage and the program participation criteria will receive an All-American Post Citation, Post Streamer and be recognized in the VFW magazine.
- The Top **25** Posts in each Division will receive:
 - Acknowledgment in VFW Magazine
 - Acknowledgement during the All-American Awards Ceremony at the National Convention
 - All-American Post citation
 - All-American Post streamer
 - All-American citation - commander
 - All-American name badge - commander
 - All-American cap (commander only, quartermaster and Post members may purchase “Post Member” cap)
 - All-American lapel pin (commander only, quartermaster may purchase pin)
 - All-American Team Post Member lapel pin (25 pack)
 - The top **five** commanders in each division will also receive:
 - ✦ **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**
 - ✦ **Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.**

All-American District Criteria

- Membership must be at least 102%
- Conduct two Membership recruiting events, submit report through the dashboard.
- District-Election Report must be submitted to National Headquarters.
- Meet all the following Program Participation criteria:
 - Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)
 - Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging
(Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry*see last page)
 - National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)

All-American District Award

- All Districts that meet the Qualifying Percentage and the program participation criteria will receive an All-American District Commander Citation, All-American Streamer and be recognized in the VFW magazine.
- The Top **15** Districts in each Division will receive:
 - All-American District streamer
 - All-American District citation - commander
 - All-American name badge - commander
 - All-American cap (commander only, quartermaster may purchase cap) • All-American lapel pin (commander only, quartermaster may purchase pin)
 - The top **two** District commanders in each division will also receive:
 - ✦ **A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**
 - ✦ **Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.**

All-American Department Criteria

- Membership must be at least 102%.
- Must conduct two Membership recruiting events, report of these events must be submitted through the All-American dashboard.
- Conduct a Department Commander's "Official Visit or Round Up" prior to Jan 1, 2024, with a report submitted through the All-American dashboard.

National Legislative Service

- ✦ Monthly National Legislative Service committee member reports submitted to National Legislative Service in Washington,

D.C. National Veterans Services

- Must have a State/Department service officer and submit his or her name and contact information to National Veterans Services in Washington, D.C. by July 31, 2023.
- Department Service Officer successfully completes NVS training requirements with a passing grade.
- Department Service Officer or appropriate designee reports hosting Post Service Officer training to NVS. Reports due by 30 June 2024.

Programs

- ✦ Voice of Democracy - An entry advanced to National judging
- ✦ Patriot's Pen - An entry advanced to National judging
- ✦ Veterans & Military Support Programs – Must complete State/Department fundraiser and proceeds donated to Veterans & Military Support Programs, Kansas City, Mo. (see last page)
- ✦ Must have at least One teacher submitted for the Teacher of the Year competition. (One entry from one of the three categories).
- ✦ Must enter one Employer of the Year Nomination (see last page)

- ✦ Must enter one JROTC Cadet of the Year Nomination (see last page)
- ✦ Must enter one VFW Member of the Year Nomination (see last Page)

All-American Department Award

- All-American Department streamer
- All-American Department citation - commander
- All-American name badge - commander
- All-American cap - commander - *quartermaster may purchase cap.*
- All-American lapel pin - commander - *quartermaster may purchase pin.*
- \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention
- Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention Joint Opening Session

Conference Membership Award

The Conference with the highest membership percentage of the four Conferences will receive a

\$1500 award and have their name and year engraved on a traveling trophy presented by the

Commander-in-Chief to the Conference Chairman at the National Convention. The 2023-2024 Conference Chairman will return the trophy to the membership booth at National Convention in Louisville, KY no later than COB on Saturday to ensure placement of the new nameplate. This trophy will be presented to the 2023-2024 Conference Chairman on stage during the Joint Opening Session**.

Post Membership Divisions and Minimum Qualifying Percentages

Division	Total Membership		Qualifying Percentage
1	951+		102%
2	750	950	102%
3	356	749	102%
4	246	355	102%
5	185	245	102%
6	143	184	102%
7	112	142	102%
8	88	111	102%
9	68	87	102%
10	51	67	102%
11	10	50	102%

District Membership Divisions and Minimum Qualifying Percentages

Division	Total Membership		Qualifying Percentage
1	5,000	14,000	102%
2	3,282	4,999	102%
3	2,172	3,281	102%
4	1,447	2,171	102%
5	906	1,446	102%
6	1	905	102%

Important Notes

- Awards are transferable inside the Post, Districts or Department.
- **Post/District/Department:** Membership must be at least 102 percent.
- **Post member cap,** any member in a Post that achieves All-American status can purchase a “Post Member” cap. Those members must be in the Post during the membership year.
- The *Department Commander’s “Official Visit or Round Up”* is for Department commanders to visit Posts in their Department to get face-to-face time with their Post and District leadership and assist with membership and Programs. For further information about the *Commander’s “Official Visit or Round Up”*, please

contact the Membership Department by calling **1.888.JOIN.VFW** or email membership@vfw.org

- Donations made to replace Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen (By eligible overseas Post). **Do not donate through your Department or by any other means.** Use the dashboard for your donation.
- Veterans & Military Support Programs Services Donations for Post/District/Department as listed above will only be accepted only through the following link: Use the dashboard for online donation.
- **For the Conference Membership Award traveling trophy, the Conference Chairman will be responsible for the return of the trophy to the Membership Department booth at the National Convention each year.
- Employer of the Year nomination link:
https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_employer_of_the_year_award
- JROTC Cadet of the Year nomination link:
[https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_jrotc_cadet_of_the_year_awa
rd](https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_jrotc_cadet_of_the_year_award)
- VFW Member of the Year nomination link:
https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vfw_member_of_the_year_award

- Department "102 Percent" Incentive, NOTE: Reimbursement for travel expenses paid by the VFW will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service on Form 1099 if the total of payments made to you during any calendar year equals \$600.00 or more. Travel expenses paid for a guest or spouse for the award will also be reported to the IRS. The reimbursement you receive from the VFW will be deemed by the IRS to be taxable income. Since the circumstances of each individual are different, it is recommended that you consult your tax advisor to determine the effect these payments may have on your personal tax situation. It is your responsibility to keep receipts and other records as you and your accountant and/or tax advisor deem necessary in order to document your expenditures.

Recruiter Awards

CIC Membership Awards



Aide de Camp Cap and Century Recruiter Cap



1, 5, 10, and 15 member Recruiting Pins
Commander in Chief's Pin and Coin



engraved av Cutlass



CIC logo power ban



Recruiter Of the Year Crystal Eagle trophy



CICDes amePlate wardwinnersnamewithCIC
logo and slogan



CIC Medallion et with VC and VC Coins

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Il merican wards